AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Forest Survey of India has not set any target for preparing forest inventory in Bihar.

(b)' to (d) Do not arise.

**Central Assistance for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Bihar**

134. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked and lactually released by the Central Government for development of national parks in Bihar during the year 1987-88;

(b) the details of funds earmarked and actually released for development of sanctuaries in Bihar during the year 1987-88; and

(c) the amount likely to be earmar ked for development of national parks and sanctuaries in Bihar during the financial year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI); (a) to (c) The details of funds earmarked and released for the development of national parks and sanctuaries in Bihar is as under

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Scheme | Year | Amount Earmarked | Amount Released |
|---|---|---|---|
| Prefect Tiger: | 1987-88 | 13.50 | 17.51 |
| | 1988-89 | 14.00 | |

Funds are not earmarked state-wise and year-wise under the schemes 'Assistance to States for Development of National Parks' and 'Assistance to States for Development of Sanctuaries. No funds have been released to Bihar under these two schemes so far in 1987-88.

**Interest charged by the Central Government on loans given to the State Governments**

135. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government charge a higher rate of interest from the State Governments on soft loans received by the Central Government from foreign countries at less than one per cent interest rate;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the amount of loan taken by the Bihar Government from the Central Government since 1982 year-wise and the rate of interest payable thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) State Governments are charged a uniform rate of interest on all loans given to them by Central Government (except small savings loans) irrespective of the source of funds. This is to ensure equitable treatment for all States irrespective of the source and terms of the external financing.

The additional central assistance to the States for extrenally aided projects is passed on to the State Governments. 70 per cent as loan and 30 per cent as outright grants. Even though some external assistance is available to Government of India on 'soft terms' i.e. carrying nominal or negligible rates of interest, the overall mix of external assistance carries a higher interest burden. In most cases, external